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FLOOR DEBATE

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of knowing this evening what...what the contracts are for cleanups where remediation is now in place, but the last page does give us an estimated liability of \$251 million in the future. I simply believe that this is a specific fund, the money of which, whether it's the \$6 million that is in LB 1310, to be transferred to the General Fund was paid by the citizens of the state of Nebraska to pay for potential clean-up costs, and remember, those that fall to the state of Nebraska for the most part are, in fact, orphan sites or abandoned sites where there is no one else to pay for the cleanup. Under the program today, the liability of the operator of a site is somewhat extensive, at least for the smaller operators. There is no provision to repay the fund this money if the revenues, General Fund revenues, of the state of Nebraska increase. It...it is simply a program that I think, while I...I understand the pressures placed upon the Appropriations Committee trying to identify cash funds that could be transferred to the General Fund that were not...cash funds that were not committed to some expenditure that had been authorized, I understand that pressure, but I do believe that the committee did err in making this recommendation...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...that the citizens of the state of Nebraska are, in fact, entitled to what they paid for with the tax on refined fuels, and that is a cleaner environment and assistance for cleaning up both those sites that have already been identified as well as those that may come up in the future. So I do support the Chambers amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, members, I'll be brief because I talked on this more an hour or so ago or two hours ago when we had the issue before us. I will say that I...I...I know the body understands if this source of revenue is not taken at this point, that we will have another gap to make up in one way or another, and perhaps each of you have ideas how that might be done. The other thing is that like many of these funds, people will tell you if you have the money somewhere, why don't you use